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answers and it is not open to the Ministers to say that they will not answer any particular question or that they will answer it at their own will, and this right overrides the rights of this Assembly.''

Mr. SPEAKER :—'' Sri Krishna Rao first began to speak without stating his point of order. This is a bad practice, and I hope he will not repeat this in the Andhra State Assembly.

'' Apart from that, I do not want to defend the Ministers. I, however, wish to point out that they have a right to say that they cannot answer particular questions in the public interest. They have also got the right to waive or not to waive the usual period of notice prescribed for questions.''

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—'' I may say that short notice questions are being answered and will be answered at once wherever possible. It is only when information has got to be obtained, we have to wait till the receipt of the information.''

Sri C. V. K. RAO :—'' Sir, you were good enough to say that you were not going to defend the Ministers. I am very glad to note that. But I request you to defend the rights of Members when these rights are being trampled upon.''

Mr. SPEAKER :—'' Nobody is trampling on the rights of Members.

'' This is the question hour, and this is not the time for us to discuss about short notice questions. If hon. Members have got any grievance, let them move a cut motion during the budget session and ventilate their grievance. That is the proper course. Now we are going to have the Supplementary Budget, and let them move a cut motion and discuss the matter.''

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—'' Are the Ministers entitled to give a wrong answer? ''

Mr. SPEAKER :—'' The Speaker has no responsibility to see whether the answers given are correct or not.''

Sri K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—'' I want your ruling, Sir.''

Mr. SPEAKER :—'' I am not prepared to give a ruling. The Members have got a weapon in their hands. Let them move a cut motion and press it to a division.''

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Exchange of lands belonging to Mouna Mutt, Tiruchirappalli.

* 166 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state whether the Government sanctioned the exchange of any land or building site belonging to the Mouna Mutt, Rock Fort, Tiruchirappalli, in favour of certain individuals and if so, on what grounds and subject to what terms?

The Hon. Sri K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—'' The Government have not sanctioned the exchange of any land

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or building site belonging to Mouna Mutt, Rock Fort, Tiruchirappalli, in favour of any individual. The latter part of the question does not arise."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" May I know, Sir, the policy of the Government in regard to the proposals for exchange of lands or house-sites belonging to such religious endowments, and, if you will kindly permit me, I will say that I know personally that in the name of exchanges what the Mouna Mutt are doing is they are handing over valuable lands to individuals in exchange for useless lands. If this policy is allowed, I am afraid . . ." 8-40 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member is making a speech."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" I will end it by putting a question, Sir. After some years, the result of these exchanges will be that all these charitable institutions will be having only useless lands, and the difference in value will pass in cash to the mutt heads. I ask what is the policy of the Government in this matter."

THE HON. SRI K. VENKATASWAMI NAIDU :—" Sir, section 29 of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act relates to the exchange of immovable trust property of any religious institution. Under this section the Commissioner alone has got the power to sanction exchange of lands, etc. The Commissioner has not so far sanctioned any exchange of land or building site belonging to Sri Mouna Mutt, Rock Fort, Tiruchirappalli, in favour of any individual. Certain instances of unauthorized alienations by the trustee of the Mouna Mutt were brought to the notice of the Hindu Religious Endowments Board by certain worshippers. When the Board instituted enquiries to find out the validity of those transactions, the jurisdiction of the Board over the Mouna Mutt and the applicability of the Hindu Religious Endowments Act itself was questioned. An enquiry into the dispute was held, and a decision was given on 11th November 1952 that the institution falls within the jurisdiction of the Madras Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Act. But since section 29 of the Act empowering the Commissioner to declare an exchange already effected as one not having been sanctioned, is held ultra vires of the Legislature so far as the maths are concerned by the Madras High Court, the Commissioner is precluded from passing further orders in the matter, and the complainants are being asked by the Commissioner to take legal opinion and act accordingly.

The instances referred to in paragraph 2 are given below :—

(1) 15,296 square feet in Tiruchirappalli near Tennur level crossing, exchanged for a house in Edward Elliots Road, Mylapore, Madras,

(2) 70 cents in Salai street, Woraiyur, exchanged for a house in Madras."

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Sri M. Kalyanasundaram :—" In the interests of these institutions, will the Government intervene and take legal steps to get the sanction of the courts for preventing the exchanges."

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" This judgment is not final. The matter is being taken to the Supreme Court. We have to await the decision of the Supreme Court before any action is taken."

Opening of a Sub-Registrar's office at Ananthapuram, Gingee taluk.

* 173 *Q.*—Sri K. R. Viswanathan (on behalf of Sri K. Aranganathan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments be pleased to state whether any representation was recently made by the people to open a Sub-Registrar's office at Ananthapuram in Gingee taluk, South Arcot district?

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" Yes, but the proposal to open a sub-registry office was found to be *not* sound financially."

Sri K. R. Viswanathan :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government are satisfied of the necessity of opening a Sub-Registrar's office in that place? "

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" No, Sir. Since it is financially not sound, it is dropped. It was fully considered and dropped."

Sri V. Gopala Gounder :—" What are the conditions necessarily to be satisfied before opening a Sub-Registrar's office, Sir? "

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" It must be self-supporting."

Sri V. R. Nagarajan :—" Sir, how much amount will this Government lose by opening this Sub-Registrar's office? Have they made any calculations? "

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" There will be a deficit of Rs. 1,262 per annum."

Sri V. Balakrishnan :—" How do the Government come to the decision that it would not be self-supporting without giving it a trial for a probationary period? "

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" The estimates are taken and decisions are arrived at by the Inspector-General of Registration."

Sri V. R. Nagarajan :—" The sum of Rs. 1,200 is not a great deficit. Will the Government be generous enough to pay that amount more or less as a subsidy, and open the Sub-Registrar's office there if it will serve the people of the locality? "

The Hon. Sri K. Venkataswami Naidu :—" There are a numbr of applications like this from various places. There